

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY
JOINT TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
AND CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
ROOM 802, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009, 10:00 A.M.**

THOSE PRESENT:

Augusta-Richmond Co. Planning Commission

George Patty
Paul DeCamp
Juriah Lewis
Lynn Russell
Marya Moultrie

CAC

Don Skinner
Walter Lamb
Les Morton
Ray Griffin

City of Augusta

David Griffith

GA DOT

George Brewer
Vonda Everett
Ulysses Mitchell
Reuben Woods
Judy Shurling

FHWA

Cornelius Davis

WELCOME

- 1. Consider approval of the minutes of the Called Joint Technical Coordinating Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held on October 22, 2009.**

CAC – Mr. Griffin moved to approve the minutes of October 22, 2009. Mr. Lamb seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TCC - Mr. Lewis moved to approve the minutes of October 22, 2009. Mr. Brewer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- 2. Consider recommending approval of the draft 2011 Unified Planning Work Program. (See attachment)**

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. A ten page handout was sent with the agenda with a brief summary outlining each of the work elements in the UPWP and a tentative budget for each. This UPWP is very similar to the current year. The Special Studies work element there is substantial amount of carryover funds to finance several of the studies that are ongoing now or will be underway shortly in the Aiken County part of the study area. On the Georgia side, consideration will be given to the Certification recommendation to update the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 2011. An invitation will be sent out to ARTS stakeholders for ideas or suggestions in regard to special studies projects. This the draft of the UPWP and subject to the Policy Committee approval and review of by our state and federal partners prior to being finalized early next year. Implementation of these work elements and specific activities will begin in July, 2010.

Mr. Lamb asked if these are predetermined to satisfy federal requirements. The UPWP work elements are designed to meet the basic federal requirements for transportation planning by MPOs (e.g. Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Congestion Management Plan), and at the same time address priority issues at the regional level. Federal transportation regulations are flexible enough that they allow each MPO to focus on needs in their respective study areas.

Mr. Lamb suggested making public announcements by the local papers as to procedures necessary to match what is required by the federal government to meet these requirements. We need to educate and challenge the public to think about what the laws require and how they are met.

CAC – Mr. Griffin moved to recommend approval of the draft 2011 UPWP. Mr. Lamb seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

TCC – Mrs. Brewer moved to recommend approval of the draft 2011 UPWP. Mr. Woods seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Status of Projects:

(a) Georgia Highways

Mrs. Everett presented this item. There are no major changes since the last update. Projects scheduled to be let in the next three months include:

- Alexander Drive Widening (ARRA Funded) - to be let on November 20, 2009
- Resurfacing of CR 1509 / Keysville Road from SR 88 to Burke County line - to be let on December 11, 2009

Project updates include:

- William Few Parkway Extension – The FONSI and CLOMR are being resolved
- Flowing Wells Road Widening – The work on this project has stopped due to funding issues.
- Old Petersburg / Old Evans Road Widening – Right-of-Way acquisition has resumed. 202 of 284 parcels have been acquired.
- Wrightsboro Road Widening - Right-of-Way acquisition has resumed. 134 of 182 parcels have been acquired. Final Plans are 80% complete.
- I-520 from Gordon Highway to US 1 (Deans Bridge Road) – Right-of-way plans are under review.
- Windsor Spring Road Widening (Phases IV and V) – Right of way plans have been approved.
- SR 28 at Laney-Walker Blvd. Ext. / Riverfront Drive Intersection Improvements - preliminary plans underway
- SR 56 from Bennock Mill Road to Old Waynesboro Road widening - Environmental is underway.

(b) South Carolina Highways

There was no one available to present this item. An email received from SC DOT indicated there were no changes since the last update.

(c) Augusta Public Transit

Mr. Lewis presented this item. Mr. Johnson is out on medical leave. The ARRA projects have been approved by the Augusta Commission. They will be sent out for bids in the next few weeks. There is a correction to the previous minutes. The minutes read that Lamar owns 80 percent of the bus shelters in Augusta. This should say Lamar owns over 80 shelters located in Augusta.

(d) Aiken County Transit

There was no one available to present this item. Mrs. Bassham indicated in an email that there was no change from the last meeting.

4. Update on Special Studies Projects:

(a) ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. We are continuing to move forward on the LRTP with the consultant Wilbur Smith and Associates. They are in the process of developing documentation of the existing conditions. The first public information meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th from 5 - 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, North Augusta, SC. This will be a drop in format with a formal presentation at 6 pm.

8. Update on Air Quality Initiatives

(a) Aiken County

Mr. DeCamp presented this item. Aiken County is continuing to work on the specifics of the Park and Ride Lot proposed to be located at the I-20 / Exit 5 interchange in Aiken County.

Mr. Lamb stated if the purpose of the Park and Ride Lot is for us to look good, the use will be zilch. Why would this project be considered?

Ms. Moultrie added that there has been strong interest from SRS for a Park and Ride facility for their employees. As part of the effort, outreach has been done and interest has been shown from several other companies, including Bridgestone Firestone and Kimberly Clark. This is another way to show that we are working to improve the air quality in small ways.

(b) Richmond County

Ms. Moultrie presented this item. We are working with the Clean Air Campaign to develop presentations to schools. They have a person that has a set of curriculum for clean air and are working to gain entrance to Richmond and Columbia County schools.

10. Issues and Concerns

(a) Prior -

There were no prior issues or concerns to address.

(b) Current / New –

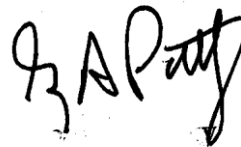
Mr. Lewis asked whose turn it is to make repairs to the 5th Street bridge. The bump on the Georgia end of the bridge needs to be repaired.

There is a ribbon cutting ceremony on the reconstructed Gordon Hwy. @ RiverNorth Drive interchange in North Augusta on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 11:00 AM. The ceremony will be at the RiverNorth Drive end of the project.

Mr. Lamb stated he had some concerns on the Congestion Management Report. There is verbiage on seriously congested, moderately congested, and congested. These need better definitions. He asked if highways are designed for the maximum congestion or for 90% of traffic flow. It's a problem of recognizingyou cannot design entire process for one area to have congestion for thirty minutes. How is this factored in for the total picture when you use the seriously congested for all times?

Mr. DeCamp explained that congestion level is based on the deviation from the posted speed limit. If the posted speed limit is 35 and the average travel speed matches the posted speed limit, then the route isn't considered congested. The level of congestion increases as the average travel speed declines below the posted speed limit. What we try to do through our annual evaluation of these routes is to identify congestion levels in general and then hone in on specific things that cause the congestion, such as an intersection may need some improvements that would alleviate congestion. This information is used by local traffic engineers to identify specific things that can be done to eliminate or alleviate congestion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



George Patty
Project Director